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| **An Insight into a Woman’s Life** | |
| Student Objective: | |
| Think about all the rights of women and men nowadays. Briefly list and explain a few examples. | |
| Introduction: *The Awakening* | |
| Discussion Questions | |
| Throughout the novel, Edna feels caught between the way others see her and the way she sees herself. Identify several moments in the novel in which this struggle is apparent.  Have you ever felt confusion at the way others see you and how you see yourself? Give an example and explain. | |
| The following are important quotes that contribute to the central themes of the novel. Read the quotes and answer each question that follows. | |
| “An indescribable oppression, which seemed to generate in some unfamiliar part of her consciousness, filled her whole being with a vague anguish. It was like a shadow, like a mist passing across her soul’s summer day” (14). | What is this “indescribable oppression” referring to? Why do you think Edna feels this way? |
| “And the ladies…all declared that Mr. Pontellier was the best husband in the world. Mrs. Pontellier was forced to admit that she knew of none better” (15). | Why do you think Edna was “forced” to agree with the other ladies’ assertions? Explain your answer with evidence from the chapter. |
| “In short, Mrs. Pontellier was beginning to realize her position in the universe as a human being, and to recognize her relations as an individual to the world within and about her” (25). | What does this passage suggest? Explain how it relates to the central themes of the novel. |
| “The voice of the sea is seductive; never ceasing, whispering, clamoring, murmuring, inviting the soul to wander for a spell in abysses of solitude; to lose itself in mazes of inward contemplation” (25). | These words appear in Chapter 6 and then again in Chapter 39. What is the significance of these passages? How do they bring together some of the novel’s major themes? |
| Journal Entry | |
| “At a very early period she had apprehended instinctively the dual life – that outward existence which conforms, the inward life which questions” (26). This quote appears at the beginning of Chapter 7; What does the author mean when she mentions Edna had “apprehended instinctively the dual life?” Write this answer in your journal. | |

In the next pages, you will find two graphic organizers. Use those to compare Edna with the other women in the text. Make sure to add evidence from the text. Once you complete these character comparisons, answer the following question in the space provided below or on a separate sheet: How do Mademoiselle Reisz and Adele Ratignolle function in relation to Edna and the novel's view of women as mothers and wives?

**Character Comparison**

SIMILARITIES

CHARACTER 2:

CHARACTER 1:

DIFFERENCES

**Character Comparison**

SIMILARITIES

DIFFERENCES

CHARACTER 2:

CHARACTER 1: